1. A method of forming a highly dislocation free compound semiconductor on a lattice mismatched substrate 24, comprising:

depositing a polycrystalline buffer layer 22 on the substrate;

creating an amorphous layer 28 at an interface of the substrate and the polycrystalline buffer layer; and

depositing a monocrystalline template layer 30 of the compound semiconductor on the buffer layer.

- The method of claim 1, further comprising: growing an epilayer 32 of the compound semiconductor on the template layer 30.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said amorphous layer 28 is created by ion implantation.
- 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said amorphous layer 28 is created by ion implantation through the polycrystalline buffer layer 22.
- 5. The method of claim 3, wherein said amorphous layer 28 is created by back-side ion implantation through the substrate 24.
- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said amorphous layer 28 comprises an amorphous oxide layer.
- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound semiconductor comprises a III-V material.
- 8. The method of claim 7, wherein said III-V material comprises $Al_x In_y Ga_{1-x-y} N$ (0 < x, y < 1).

- 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said amorphous layer 28 comprises an amorphous oxide layer created by oxygen ion implantation.
- 10. The method of claim 9, wherein said polycrystalline buffer layer 22 and said template layer 30 exhibit homoepitaxy.
- 11. The method of claim 10, wherein said polycrystalline buffer layer 22 and said monocrystalline template layer 30 comprise a same material.
- 12. The method of claim 1, wherein said monocrystalline template layer 30 is closely lattice matched to the polycrystalline buffer layer 22.
- 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said buffer layer 22 serves as a seed layer for growth of said template layer 30, and further comprising:

growing a compound semiconductor based device structure on the template layer 30.

- 14. The method of claim 13, wherein said compound semiconductor comprises $Al_x In_y Ga_{1-x-y} N$ (0 < x, y < 1).
- 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said amorphous layer 28 is created by ion implantation after the buffer layer 22 is deposited on the substrate 24, and the substrate comprises a material that becomes amorphous by ion implantation.
- 16. The method of claim 15, wherein said substrate 24 comprises one of: Si, SOI, and Al_x Ga_{1-x} As (where x>0).
- 17. The method of claim 15 wherein said polycrystalline buffer layer 22comprises AlN.

WO 2004/109775 PCT/US2004/016481

-13-

- 18. The method of claim 15, wherein said amorphous layer 28 is created by nitrogen ion implantation.
 - 19. A semiconductor structure comprising:
 a semiconductor substrate 24;
 a polycrystalline buffer layer 22 on the substrate;
 an amorphous layer 28 at an interface of the substrate and the buffer layer;
 and
 an epilayer 32 of monocrystalline compound semiconductor on the buffer layer.
- 20. The structure of claim 19, wherein said epilayer 32 includes a monocrystalline template layer 30 of said compound semiconductor grown on said buffer layer 22.
- 21. The structure of claim 19, wherein said epilayer 32 comprises a compound semiconductor based device structure.
- 22. The structure of claim 21, wherein said amorphous layer 28 comprises an amorphous oxide layer, and said buffer layer 22 and epilayer 32 are closely lattice matched.
- 23. The structure of claim 19, wherein said compound semiconductor comprises $Al_x In_y Ga_{1-x-y} N$ (0 < x, y < 1).
- 24. The structure of claim 23, wherein said epilayer 32 has a dislocation density below 10⁵ cm⁻²
- 25. The structure of claim 23, wherein said polycrystalline buffer layer 22 comprises AIN.

WO 2004/109775 PCT/US2004/016481

-14-

- 26. A semiconductor structure comprising:
 - a semiconductor substrate 24;
 - a polycrystalline buffer layer 22 on the substrate;
 - an amorphous layer 28 at an interface of the substrate and the buffer layer;

and

- a monocrystalline template layer 30 of compound semiconductor on said buffer layer.
- 27. The structure of claim 26, wherein said amorphous layer 28 comprises an amorphous oxide layer, and said buffer layer 22 and template layer 30 are closely lattice matched.
- 28. The structure of claim 26, wherein said compound semiconductor comprises: $Al_x In_y Ga_{1-x-y} N$ (0 < x, y < 1).
- 29. The semiconductor structure of claim 26, wherein said polycrystalline buffer layer 22 comprises AlN.